

has signed to manage the local gang of the new circuit.

Immediately they rush out with the statement that they will get out an injunction to prevent Tinker playing with the Feds. That statement is ridiculous on the face of it. It resolves itself into the Brooklyn club suing for the use of something it never had.

For Tinker does not belong to Brooklyn, and never did.

Some one's foot slipped when that agreement was made between Garry Herrman and Charley Ebbets for Tinker's services. Something was actually left to the decision of the chattel which was to be disposed of. It was expressly stipulated that the sale was not to be binding if Tinker refused to go to Brooklyn.

Events of the last few days prove conclusively that Tinker does not want to go to Brooklyn. To any one but a baseball magnate, it seems plain that the deal is therefore off. But Brooklyn continues to claim that it controls Tinker's services.

If Joe does not sign a contract with the Dodgers, according to bosses of that team, he will be sued. But Brooklyn can send Joe contracts from now until the crack of doom, and even the rules drawn by the magnates themselves cannot make him inelligible.

If he does not get a contract from Cincinnati by March 1 he will automatically become a free agent, to sign where he will. Brooklyn has nothing whatever to do with the matter, simply because Tinker refused to ratify the deal.

Brooklyn has given Cincinnati a couple of good players, and the Reds want to keep the men. The only way they can do it is for Tinker to go to Brooklyn. Once a magnate gets his hands on something it is hard to pry him loose.

In the background of the whole affair sits Tinker. He has seen the Federal money, and knows it is the real thing. Herrmann and Ebbets

are cussing Joe to a brown turn, but they should really knock each other for being so careless as to allow a ballplayer to have a say as to his own disposal.

The Federal really has the big league owners scared. A few days ago some of the older magnates talked lightly of the newcomers and said they were nothing but bloomers. The signing of Tinker and Brown has convinced them of their error.

Some of them even yet affect to treat the Feds lightly, but threats of court action show their real position. They are scared stiff at the prospect of a war, which means that players will get larger salaries and be given many concessions.

The public will also benefit by any scrapping.

Right now ballplayers are paid enough. But some of the rules laid down by the magnates to govern them are unfair, and by this no crack is aimed at the reserve clause in its entirety.

Some manner of reserve clause is certainly necessary, both for the club owner and the fan who really supports the sport. Without it one club with a plethora bankroll could grab all the stars and the game would cease to be interesting. But some modification can be made, and the change is due the players. That tangle is for the magnates to work out themselves.

Even today club owners in the National and American are claiming that the Feds are backed by shoe-string capital. We prefer to take Tinker's action as a real line on their bankroll. Joe is a business man in addition to being some ballplayer, and he would not have thrown in his lot with the strangers if he had not been assured of his coin.

Other big leaguers who have preceded Tinker into the Feds demanded the same assurance of a regular pay-day. The fact that they signed is pretty good evidence that the Feds have the iron men,